

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Tents and temporary membrane structures having an area in excess of 200 square feet and canopies in excess of 400 square feet shall be in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 19— State Fire Marshal Regulations, and the 2001 California Building Standards Parts 2 and 9 (Building and Fire Codes) and shall require an inspection. Permits shall be obtained from the Chula Vista Fire Department.

Applications for an inspection must be made at least 7 business days prior to the event or special use. The person erecting the structure shall be responsible for obtaining the inspection.

USE PERIOD

Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies shall be used for a period of not more than 180 days within a 12-month period on a single premise.

STRUCTURAL STABILITY

Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies and their appurtenances shall be adequately braced and anchored to prevent weather related collapse. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the Fire Marshal on request.

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in accordance with the following: 200 to 500 sq. ft: a minimum of one 2-A:10B:C rated fire extinguisher; 501 to 1000 sq. ft: a minimum of two 2-A:10B:C rated fire extinguishers; each additional 2000 square feet, or fraction thereof, shall require at least one 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher. Travel distance to any extinguisher shall not exceed 50 feet.



At least one 40B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided for each kitchen (K-type extinguisher), generator, transformer or location with flammable or combustible liquids.

FLAME-RETARDANT TREATMENTS

The sidewalls, drops and tops of temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies shall be composed of flame-resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner. Floor coverings, bunting, combustible decorative materials and effects, including sawdust when used on floors or passageways, shall be composed of flame-resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner.

The mission of
the Chula Vista
Fire Department
is to protect life,
environment,
and property.



Guide to
TENTS and CANOPIES
(Temporary Membrane Structures)

447 F Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 691-5055

Temporary membrane structures, tents or canopies shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the following information:

2

1. Identification of temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy, size and fabric or material type.
2. For flame-resistant materials, the necessary information to determine compliance.
3. For flame-retardant-treated materials, the date that the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy and other combustible materials were last treated with an approved flame retardant.
4. The trade name and type of flame retardant utilized in the flame-retardant treatment.
5. The name of the person and firm that applied the flame retardant.

ACCESS, LOCATION AND PARKING

Fire apparatus access shall be provided with an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of 13 feet, 6 inches.



Temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies shall not be located within 20 feet of other temporary membrane structures, buildings, and property lines, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guywires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy.

Distances between tents or combinations of tents shall be determined by the fire inspector and shall meet the provisions of Chapter 31E, Section 3104E.1-7 of the 2001 California Building Code.

SOURCES OF IGNITION

Smoking shall not be permitted in temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies or in adjacent areas where hay, straw, sawdust or other combustible materials are stored or used.

NO SMOKING signs shall be conspicuously posted.

Fireworks, open flames and devices capable of igniting combustible materials shall not be used in or adjacent to a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy, unless otherwise approved.

COOKING AND HEATING

Cooking and heating equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be approved or in accordance with the Mechanical Code.

EXCEPTION: Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations which do not present an ignition hazard.

3

Cooking and heating equipment shall be vented to the outside air by approved means. Where vents or flues are used, all portions of the temporary membrane structure, tent, or canopy shall be no less than 12 inches from the flue or vent. Solid-fuel-burning equipment shall be equipped with spark arrestors having openings not exceeding 1/4-inch wire mesh.



Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.

Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from temporary membrane structures, other tents and canopies by a minimum of 20 feet.

Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet from a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy.

LP-GAS

LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy.

Portable LP-gas containers, piping, valves and fittings which are located outside and are being used to fuel equipment inside a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards and shall be located in an approved location.

MEANS OF EGRESS

Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy and shall be located such that all points are 100 feet or less from an exit.

Every tent and temporary membrane structure or usable portion thereof shall have at least one exit and not less than the number of exits as stated below:

MINIMUM WIDTH EACH EXIT (IN INCHES)			
Capacity	Number of Exits	Tent or Canopy	Membrane Structure
10 to 199	2	72	36
200 to 499	3	72	72
500 to 999	4	96	72
1,000 to 1,999	5	120	96
2,000 to 2,999	6	120	96
3,000 or more	7	120	96

Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain, provided:

4

1. Curtains shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be a minimum of 8 feet above the floor level at the exit. The curtains shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtains obstructs the exit, and

2. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, which contrasts with the color of the tent.

Exit doors shall swing in the direction of exit travel.

EXIT SIGNS

Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more.

Exit signs in temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies with occupant loads of more than 100 persons shall be of an approved self-luminous type or shall be internally or externally illuminated by fixtures supplied in the following manner:

1. Two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all other circuits, for occupant loads of 300 or less, or

2. Two separate sources of power, one of which shall be an approved emergency system, shall be provided when the occupant load exceeds 300.

Emergency systems shall be supplied from storage batteries or on-site generator set, and the system shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.

HOUSEKEEPING

Combustible vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy and from areas within 30 feet of such structures.



Hay, straw and similar combustible materials shall not be stored inside or within 30 feet of a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy being used for cooking or public assembly.

EXCEPTION: Hay, straw and similar combustible materials treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner.

The floor surface inside a temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy and the grounds outside and within a 30-foot perimeter shall be kept clear of combustible waste. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers until removed from the premises.